



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

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Valley Forge National Historical Park - News Release

NEWS RELEASE
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Family friendly activities mark General Washington's 275th birthday Presidents' Weekend Celebrated Feb 17-19 at Valley Forge

Valley Forge, Pa. --Visitors to Valley Forge National Historical Park this Presidents' Weekend (Feb. 17-19) will enjoy hands-on activities commemorating the birth of General George Washington. It was at Valley Forge in February 1778, that the first public celebration of Washington's birth took place - when a group of soldiers serenaded him with music outside his Headquarters. He was 46 years old.

This year, to celebrate his 275th birthday, Valley Forge National Historical Park will feature living history stations throughout the Park featuring the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment and the Oneida Indian Nation.

On February 17, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. themed vignettes on *Native Americans, African Americans, Medicine, Artillery, Quarter Marshalling* and *Supply* will be featured. The day's events mark the 94th annual Boy Scouts Pilgrimage to Valley Forge sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America Cradle of Liberty Council. At least 2,400 boy scouts from eight states will descend on the famous Valley Forge encampment site for the chance to earn two specially designed patches. The first is the "Pilgrimage Patch" highlighting this year's Boy Scout theme officer, Alan McClain, a captain and key spy in Washington's Army. The second is the "Encampment Patch" highlighting a Native American.

On Sunday, February 18 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. visitors will see musket and artillery firing demonstrations, campfire cooking and military drilling while learning why Washington was so revered by his troops. The 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment will participate and guided walks of the Park will be available.

On Monday, February 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Welcome Center, visitors will meet a costumed George Washington interpreter and learn what made Washington such a brilliant military leader. The Park's Encampment Store will sponsor "Kids Corner" from 11a.m. to 1 p.m., where kids will have the opportunity to make their own tri-corner hats and birthday cards for General Washington. At 1 p.m., they and other attendees can enjoy slices of birthday cake (Martha Washington's own recipe) followed by a Children's March with living history interpreters and a firing demonstration. At 2 p.m. in the Education Center, a park ranger will lead a lecture for adults on General Washington and his vital role in developing the Continental Army during the Valley Forge encampment.

For additional details about Presidents Weekend events at Valley Forge, visit www.nps.gov/vafo; for information on hotels, restaurants and other attractions in the region, log on to www.valleyforge.org. For more information about Valley Forge National Historical Park, call 610-783-1077.

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About Valley Forge National Historical Park

Valley Forge National Historical Park educates present and future generations of Americans about one of the most defining events in our nation's history by preserving the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78.

The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ltd. is a nonprofit, membership-based sales and marketing organization which aggressively promotes the Valley Forge area and Montgomery County as a convention site and leisure visitor destination by encouraging patronage of its 500-plus member hotels, restaurants, attractions and services. The Bureau's web site at www.valleyforge.org serves travel consumers, residents, meeting planners and tour operators.